

Curb, Dustin (DES)

From: Gordon Wheat <gwheat12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:41 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Public Health Perspective on Residential Building Code updates

External Email

Dear members of the building codes council,

As a physician I would like to emphasize the public health benefits of the proposed building code updates. The health impacts of climate change are already serious in Washington and highly likely to worsen in the near future.

Let me make just a couple of important points:

1. Most Washingtonians don't know how local hospital ICUs and ERs were overwhelmed during the "heat dome" in June 2021. Heat stroke emergencies from coming heat events in Washington will again likely overwhelm the critical care capacity of hospitals so that hospitals will be unable to provide optimal lifesaving care, and people will die who could have been saved.
2. The most immediate public health benefit of the proposed code changes would come from the disincentive to install gas lines solely for cooking. Cooking with gas produces high levels of indoor air pollution resulting in increased asthma, especially in children, and increased cardiovascular disease and cancer in adults. Less cooking with gas would improve public health, and requirements for better ventilation where gas cooking is installed would also help. However, we know that most people don't use their ventilation systems.

Thank you for considering the public health perspective.
Gordon Wheat MD